**Briefing Update for the 2016 Hawaii Pacific Global Breadfruit Summit**

July 31, 2016

Aloha,

Mahalo for everyone’s support and particularly your patience. When a decision to set a Hawaii Pacific Global Summit was made, it literally was a decision to turn into the wind and reach for that distant shore yet untouched. The distance at the time was daunting with only a flimsy canoe and outrigger holding a few very fine crew members who believed in the gift of a sacred tree to help raise the common good. Particularly, its powers of nutrition and health to save the children from the ravages of diabetes and obesity, slow it down among our general adult populations, feed the hungry of the world. Its gifts extend to healing the earth with proper growing and caring of the tree in balance and harmony guided by the wisdom of our ancestors and supported by modern knowledge, science and technology. And of course, the economic opportunities and new research and development findings are not only self-evident when they are shared by experts at the summit, they are compelling!

**Brief History of the PRBI and Mahalo to the late Governor Inos**

The Pacific Regional Breadfruit Initiative (PRBI) was launched in Saipan in December 2013 led by the late Governor Inos and supported by the CNMI legislature. Their trust and faith in those of us who were there to advocate for their support, was overwhelming not only for the CNMI, but also for its neighbors in the Oceania and beyond. As a consequence; aloha, respect and sharing are the foundation values of the PRBI that continues to guide its journey to date. Much mahalo and aloha to the people of the CNMI and Micronesia represented by their leaders when they voted to endorse the PRBI at the 2013 Micronesian Chiefs Executives meeting in Saipan.

**Mahalo to the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary Esther Kiaaina**

Much mahalo and aloha to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Esther Kiaaina, a native Hawaiian that holds the breath of Micronesia and Polynesia in her heart from her birth and raising who feels the gentle winds of Oceania, the Caribbean and Islands throughout the tropic zones of the world where breadfruit will thrive and help people prosper. Her support enabled the PRBI canoe to launch with two consecutive research and development grants that has culminated with the sharing of the fruits of the journey at the 2016 Hawaii Pacific Breadfruit Summit, Court Yard Oahu North Shore Marriott and Polynesian Cultural Center in La’ie, Oahu.

**Updates:**

**Attendees to date:** We have already received over 60 commitments to attending with growing numbers of inquiries about the summit; and we haven’t yet published any releases. **Launch Platform and Website:** We expect to launch the summit platform that will be linked to the world. Much Mahalo to Gordon Fuller and Global Mana tech team who offered their full support towards a successful summit. **Summit Connections to other events:** The Breadfruit Summit is now an official lead-in event to the IUCN World Conservation Conference (1st to be hosted in the U.S. hosted in Waikiki at the Convention Center expecting an average 10,000 people to WCC world conferences) which inaugurates a day after (Sept 01) the Breadfruit Summit ends (Aug. 31). The Hawaii IUCN planning team (which I’m a humble member) has approved the Breadfruit Summit platform and website to be included in their Hawaii WCC IUCN website. **Sponsors:** As we had no funds to start with (possessed limitless aloha only), we continue to engage generous sponsors to help with travel and ancillary expenses by those directly associated with the breadfruit initiative whose knowledge, experience, skills and abilities will be of great benefit to those seeking to engage the gifts of the breadfruit for health and prosperity at the individual, community, government and global levels. **Appreciate any assistance: T**he summit is growing faster than we dared to hope at this stage and we are no longer focused on getting up and going but making it the best summit possible. Your help and assistance in anyway would be most appreciated as our little flimsy canoe has a lot of room and extra paddles. Helping with sponsorships is always welcome!

**New Panel for Community College/University Land Grant Programs with student Presentations:** I was delighted to receive inquires regarding opportunities for student presentations followed by the land grant programs and interests to share breadfruit farming and research projects. I’m making this a priority and will review how best to accommodate this component either in the existing agenda or create a concurrent venue in one of Polynesian village sites that can accommodate such a panel in the Polynesian Cultural Center. We must prepare the next generation to receive the torch and sustain effort.

**New Government Panel:** We have modified a panel to include government officials and a local business/farmer from their jurisdictions to share policies to support a breadfruit industry or initiative locally. Additionally, to engaging with other attending government officials in a dialogue of regional collaboration to address matters such as supply, market entry, quality control, distribution and logistics with the understanding that the farmer is the most critical factor to success. We may have Governors from the US Territories, Ministers from Samoa, Tonga, US Pacific Territories, and legislative members from the various island governments. **Business Interests:** Key business, investment and entrepreneurs representing all the participating island and continental countries have also indicated attendance. **Asia and Africa Interest:** From the continent, there are two groups planning to attend from Vietnam and also from Ghana to date with inquiries from other countries yet to be confirmed.

**New Technologies:** We have technology experts and businesses attending who will also feature their technology in renewable and alternative energy designed into a freight container for effective use and deployment to remote islands and village communities in the many islands of the world. Use of drones with remote sensing devices to help with counting trees, particularly in remote areas not easily accessible. Several related areas will also be discussed with the possibility of model demonstrations.

**Waiting List:** To my amazement, we have a wait list of those who would like to present or serve on a panel. I’m currently looking at the possibility of concurrent panels utilizing suitable Polynesian Cultural Center Villages that can host groups with specific topics. We want the summit to be as inclusive as possible. Please contact me asap if you know of individuals or groups interested to joining panel or as a presentor. **Priority Presentros:** Priority goes to PRBI contracted consultants by PBCP to generate research and development with the goal of providing their findings and training opportunities to the U.S. Territories. We also encourage they be consultants to whomever would like to pursue the breadfruit business, industry and opportunities based on their work and findings generated from the PRBI funded by the US Office of Insular Affairs. Our only request, that the initiatives be pursued holistically with the tree being treated and guided by the traditional wisdom of ancestors supported by modern knowledge, science and technology.

Mahalo All. Next update will be the final before the inauguration, August 27th. Please be aware that panelists and schedules are subject to change until the final report. Aloha, Dr. tusi

p.s. Please find latest iteration of the agenda.